

July, 2022



Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



Next Meeting: Scheduled for **10am July 9, 2022**
at the Denton Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland St .

Chapter Officers

President—Jim Akers
Vice President—Brandon Story
Registrar & Genealogist—
Tom Richards
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry
Treasurer—Christopher Strauss
Chaplain—Bill Rowell
Past President—Mike Connelley
Sgt at Arms—Johnny Loomis

President's Message

What does Jimmy Carter have in common with Denton County and the City of Denton namesake, John Denton?

John B. Denton (28 JUL 1806—22 MAY 1841) was a Methodist Min-

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ister, lawyer, soldier, and political candidate for whom both Denton County and the city of Denton were named.

According to Wikipedia Denton was born in Tennessee, and when he was eight, he and his brother began an apprenticeship with a blacksmith and Methodist Minister. They moved to Clark County, Arkansas, and by age 12 he worked as a deckhand on a river flatboat. By 1826 he worked as a preacher in Clark County, eventually moving to Red River and Lamar Counties, Texas in 1837.

In 1838 Denton began to study law, and he and his law partner "speculated in thousands of acres" in the northeast part of what was to become Texas. In 1839 he joined a volunteer militia, eventually serving in the Fourth Brigade of the Texas Militia, led by BG Edward H. Tarrant. Denton was shot and killed in 1841 while scouting an attack party of Native Americans. He lies buried on the southeast corner of the lawn of the Denton County Courthouse.

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James Carter (01 JAN 1769–01 MAR 1850) was born in Morristown/Morris/PA and served as a private under Captain Joseph Kidd, and Lieutenant William Ptolemy Powell in the Halifax County Regiment. He later served as a private under Captain Powell, Halifax County Regiment, which participated in the battle of Guilford Court House at Halifax, PA on 07 MAY 1781 to 11 MAY 1781. Find A Grave cites Carter's participation in the Battle of Yorktown, although no evidence has been found to support this claim.

For those who would rightly question Carter's service, since he would have been only 12 years old at the Battle of Guilford Court House, and only 14 even at the Battle of Yorktown. However, North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers for 06 JUN 1782 and 30 JUL 1783 for Carter, as well as a pension application dated 12 JAN 1832 have been located on Fold3.com.

As it turns out, James Carter (not Jimmy, as I started out just to get your attention) is one of the few Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Texas. James Carter's grave was recently discovered in Bonham/Fannin/TX in a private cemetery. Compatriots Ray Hargis of the Edmund Terrill (Sherman, TX) Chapter, and District Vice President, and Edmund Terrill Chapter President Gary Barker have

traced Carter's lineage to John B. Denton!

Unfortunately, Carter's grave has fallen on disrepair, and Edmund Terrill members have taken on the task readying the grave site for a formal dedication, currently scheduled for September 11, 2022. Compatriot TL Holden is in the process of repairing the broken headstone.

For any of our members interested in assisting with removing broken tree branches, cutting and removing grass, and other gravesite cleanup activities, or in participating in the gravesite dedication ceremony as a Color Guard member, I encourage you to let me know and I will get you in touch the Edmund Terrill members organizing this project.

Promote patriotism. Preserve American History. Promote education to our future generations. These three things describe what the Sons of the American Revolution does.

It seems like that is exactly what the James Carter project is doing.

Please mark your calendar for our next in-person meeting: July 9, 2022, 10:00 am, Emily Fowler Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201.

Chapter President Jim Akers

Compatriot James Mack and his wife (Sarah) participated in a Independence Day parade in Providence Village, TX. Attached is a picture of their award-winning entry. They will be in various other patriotic parades this year including the Denton parade, with the Jeep.



Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

We now have a **Facebook page**, www.facebook.com, search for **Denton TX SAR**. Please join and participate.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

Bill Surles, wsmerch@gmail.com

Constitution Week

Constitution Week is the commemoration of America's most important document. It is celebrated annually during the week of September 17-23.

The United States Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties, freedoms and inalienable rights.

This celebration of the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into public law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The DAR has also erected a structure that is built in tribute to the Constitution of the United States. DAR Constitution Hall, which is a performing arts center, opened in 1929.

The aims of the Constitution Week celebration are to:

- Emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution.
- Inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.
- Encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

Constitution Week is a great time to learn more about this important document and celebrate the freedoms it gave us.

The Denton SAR Chapter will be assisting the Benjamin Lyon DAR Chapter of Denton in this promotion. Compatriots Jim Hobdy and Bill Surles are on the planning committee.

More information to come. SAVE September 17 to participate in the important celebration



The Sugar & Stamp Acts

Harbottle Dorr, a North End ironmonger [seller of hard-ware, tools, and household implements], began collecting and annotating Boston newspapers in January 1765. Offering his opinions as a man of middling rank toward the Revolutionary struggle for liberty, he claimed that the June 6 New York Gazette article “first gave the Alarm about the Stamp Act.”

Parliament passed the Stamp Act on March 22, 1765, to pay down a national debt approaching £140,000,000 after defeating France in the Seven Years War (1763). A year earlier, Parliament passed the Sugar Act, their first revenue-raising measure. Both taxes promised dire consequences in a post-war economy. While the Sugar Act was a duty only on foreign goods, the Stamp Act taxed items within the colonies. Previously, only colonial assemblies assumed responsibility for internal taxes.



Stamp Act of 1765 proof

Beginning November 1, 1765, legal documents, academic degrees, appointments to office, newspapers, pamphlets, playing cards, and dice required embossing with a Treasury stamp as proof of payment of the tax. Colonial essay-ists, orators, and ordinary people responded with cries of “slavery,” “tyranny,” and “No taxation without representation.”

The same angry colonists who now attacked British taxation policies had proudly celebrated their

country’s victories in the Seven Years War a few years earlier. On October 16, 1759, Bostonians celebrated Britain’s defeat of France in the Plains of Abraham battle in Quebec. Printer John Boyle noted: “...the Regiment of Militia were mustered, and the Town beautifully illuminated in the Evening.” On September 26, 1760, “public rejoicing” accompanied news of Montreal’s surrender. Finally, on May 24, 1763, Boyle declared Britain’s complete victory: “The Definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the King of Great Britain, the French and Spanish Kings was signed at Paris February 10, 1763.”

Massachusetts remained especially proud since thousands of her provincial soldiers served—and died—alongside British “regulars” in the New York and Canadian theaters of war. Among them was 21-year-old silversmith Paul Revere, who enlisted as a Second Lieutenant in Richard Gridley’s Artillery Train on February 18, 1756. French victories cancelled Revere’s participation in a British plan to seize a French fort at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, New York, and he returned home in November 1756. Under the peace treaty Britain gained vast new territory, including French Canada and French territory east of the Mississippi. How would Britain pay down its war debt and the additional expense of defending its enlarged North American empire? How would American colonists respond to Britain’s policies?

Peace ended colonial contracts to supply the British military with weapons, uniforms, and provisions as well as the steady supply of gold and silver that paid for those goods. After 1760, British merchants began tightening up credit to colonial merchants. Britain’s slowing economy led to a slumping West Indian economy, which reduced demand for New England livestock, lumber, and fish. Merchants in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia declared bankruptcy in alarming numbers.

Artisans and laborers faced lower income and higher costs of food, firewood, and taxes. On February 26, 1764, John Boyle wrote about another crisis—smallpox: “...’tis feared by many that it will be impractical to prevent its spreading thro’ the Town.” Paul Revere’s family was one of seven afflicted families in Boston’s North End. Though his family survived, Revere’s income from his previously thriving silver shop dropped from £102 in 1764 to £60 in 1765.

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To make matters worse, Britain began imposing taxes, leading to more economic distress—and political danger. On May 15, 1764, the Boston Town Meeting asked their representatives to the Massachusetts General Court [Legislature] to *use your power and influence in maintaining the invaluable Rights and Privileges of the Province...For if our Trade may be taxed why not our Lands? Why not the produce of our Lands, and every Thing we possess or make use of?...If Taxes are laid upon us in any shape without ever having a Legal Representative where they are laid, are we not reduced from the Character of Free Subjects to the miserable state of tributary Slaves...*

British officials saw the situation differently. When George Grenville became Prime Minister in April 1763, he grappled with the national debt, a debt that included an annual estimated cost of £200,000 for 10,000 soldiers in America recommended by his predecessor Lord Bute. The outbreak of Pontiac's Rebellion, a major American Indian uprising in the Ohio country in May 1763, increased the urgency to maintain a military force in America.

During the war, Britons at home bore a heavy tax burden. In contrast, the Crown requisitioned colonial assemblies for soldiers and supplies but could not force compliance, and reimbursed as much as two-fifths of the expenses. It seemed reasonable that the colonies should contribute to their own defense, especially since the Board of Trade estimated that the American colonies annually smuggled approximately £700,000 of merchandise. It also seemed logical to examine existing trade laws as a starting point for new taxes.

In 1651 Britain passed its first Navigation Act and continued to update trade acts as needed. However, the goal was not to raise revenue but to impose a high enough duty on foreign trade to channel trade between Britain and her colonies. Grenville's proposed duties would raise revenue and be strictly enforced, reducing the colonists' ability to evade duties.

He began by revising the Molasses Act of 1733, due to expire in December 1763. Enacted on April 5, 1764, to take effect on September 29, the new Sugar Act cut the duty on foreign molasses from 6 to 3 pence per gallon, retained a high duty on foreign refined sugar, and prohibited the importation of all foreign rum. This part of the act affected New England, where distilling sugar and molasses into rum was a major industry. The Sugar Act also taxed numerous foreign products, including wine, coffee, and textiles, and banned the direct shipment of several important commodities such as lumber to Europe, upsetting the balance of trade for merchants in Northern sea-ports. Passage of the Currency Act on April 19, 1764 (effective September 1, 1764) banned colonial paper currency, requiring the Sugar Act to be paid in gold and silver.



Portrait of Prime Minister George Grenville

More than half of the articles in the Sugar Act dealt with enforcement. It required Customs collectors to report to their colonial posts, instead of appointing underlings who were susceptible to bribery. Masters of vessels had to post a bond and carry affidavits attesting to the legality of their cargo. At every stop in their voyage officials examined their paperwork, assisted in their efforts by the Royal Navy. Those caught with illegal cargo were no longer tried by a sympathetic local jury but at a new vice-admiralty court in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

On January 14, 1765, the *Boston Evening Post* printed a letter from London, dated October 20, 1764, about the new trade regulations: "...every cargo of the American product is deemed prohibited goods...if, therefore, this traffic is prohibited, the colonies must be ruined..."

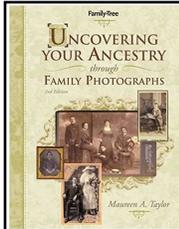
Their ruin was not complete. In the summer of 1764, James Otis, Boston attorney and representative to the Massachusetts General Court, responded to the Sugar Act with *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved*. After promising colonial obedience to King and Parliament, Otis emphatically upheld an essential right of all English citizens: "Taxes are not to be laid on the people, but by their consent in person, or by deputation..." On February 8, 1765, Arthur Savage, writing from London, informed his brother, merchant Samuel Phillips Savage, that the Stamp Act had passed "by a great majority." Otis's argument "has not been of any service."

The struggle for liberty was just beginning.

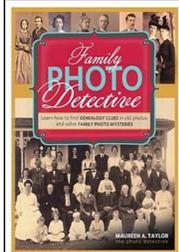
WHO IS *THAT*? BOOKS HELP ID UNKNOWN PEOPLE IN FAMILY PHOTOS

Plagued by photos of people you don't know? Have you sifted through old Polaroids with no identification on them? You're wondering, "*Who are these people?*"

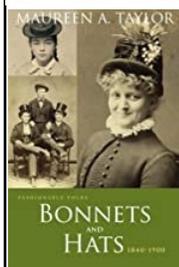
Well, pull down those dusty boxes and get ready to figure out who's who in those old snapshots. The Denton Public Library can help with several books by Maureen A. Taylor—"*The Photo Detective*"—a recognized expert on photo identification.



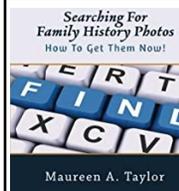
Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs Identify people in family photos, tell their story, and get tips to locate new family photographs, as well as create worksheets to help expand your ancestral knowledge.



Family Photo Detective - Study clothing, hairstyles, props, photographer's name, etc., to hone in on an identification.



Is that a boater or a cloche? *Fashionable Folks: Bonnets and Hats 1840-1900* focuses on these accessories to date them to specific time periods.



Searching for Family History Photos: How to Get Them Now! Learn how to search for photos on websites such as the Library of Congress, Google Images, Flickr, etc., determine photo usage rights and permissions, track your research, and discover family photographs you never knew existed.



Preserving your Family Photographs: How to Care for your Family Photographs - From Daguerreotypes to Digital Imaging Learn straightforward steps to add value to your home collection using methods that conservators and photo curators use every day.

All books available at DPL Special Collections for in-library use.

— Nancy Gilbride Casey Denton Public Library Volunteer